



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Office of Quality Assurance

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KIM GUADAGNO  
Lt. Governor

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Commissioner

August 1, 2014

**CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

**SHW PT RESULTS DUE TO OQA  
BY DECEMBER 24, 2014**

Attention Laboratory Manager:

RE: October Solid/Hazardous Waste PT Study

For the past 12 years the State of New Jersey has contracted with Accredited PT Providers to supply Proficiency Testing (PT) Samples to businesses participating in the Environmental Laboratory Certification Program (ELCP). The State is no longer administering a PT Sample Contract and businesses are now responsible for contacting PT Sample Providers to obtain their own samples. As a participant in the ELCP your business is required to acceptably analyze at least one PT Study annually for each parameter in which you hold certification.

Businesses are required to purchase PT Samples from an A2LA or ACLASS approved PT Provider that meets the TNI requirements. Not all PT Providers are accredited for all parameters therefore you must ensure the provider you choose has the required accreditation prior to obtaining your PT samples. A list of approved PT Providers can be found in Attachment A of this letter. It can also be found at <http://www.nelac-institute.org/ptproviders.php>.

For the October Solid/Hazardous Waste Study businesses are required to purchase and analyze PT Samples for the parameters given on the attached "SHW Parameter Table" (Attachment B) in which they hold New Jersey Certification. For the October Solid/Hazardous Waste Study businesses are required to analyze only soil PT Samples. Businesses that currently hold certification in only the Solid and Chemical Materials (SCM) matrix for a given parameter or in both the SCM and Non-Potable (NPW) matrices for a given parameter are required to analyze a solid PT Sample when one is available. Businesses that only have certification for the NPW matrix for a given parameter will be required to analyze an aqueous PT Sample at a later date. A separate letter will follow with those instructions.

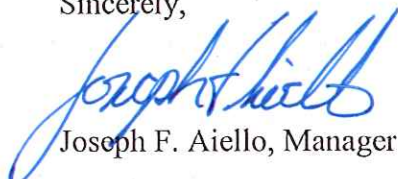
Please also note the following:

- Businesses must assure that for the October Solid/Hazardous Waste Study the PT sample(s) are not analyzed before October 1, 2014.
- Businesses must assure that for the October Solid/Hazardous Waste Study all PT Sample results are submitted by the PT Sample Provider to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Quality Assurance (OQA) by close of business December 24, 2014. **PT Sample results received by the OQA after December 24, 2014, will be evaluated as failed to submit results and therefore "Unacceptable" and will require the analysis of a make-up study.**
- An amended report from the PT Sample Provider will not be accepted by the OQA.
- Businesses must report the PT Sample result with the method in which it holds certification. **If a business reports a PT Sample result with a method other than that in which it holds certification it will be evaluated as failed to submit results and therefore "Unacceptable" and will require the analysis of a make-up study.**
- Raw data records will not be accepted or reviewed to use as justification for data reporting errors.
- For PT Sample results that are found "Unacceptable", other enforcement actions may be taken by the NJDEP in addition to the requirement for analyzing samples in a make-up study.
- For any parameters not detected in the PT Sample the laboratory must report a result of less than the laboratory's Reporting Limit ( $< RL$ ) to get credit for the analysis of the compound. If no result is reported no credit will be received for the compound.

Additionally, PT Samples are to be entered into the sample receipt log as samples and tracked through the analytical process as routine environmental samples. PT Samples received as ampules are to be diluted according to the PT Provider's instructions. The diluted ampule becomes the routine environmental sample, which is then added to a routine sample batch. PT Samples shall not be analyzed multiple times unless routine environmental samples are analyzed multiple times. Results from multiple analyses must be calculated in the same manner as routine environmental samples. The type, composition, concentration and frequency of quality control samples analyzed with the PT Samples shall be the same as with that used for environmental samples. Also, initial and continuing calibrations shall be the same frequency as that used with routine environmental samples.

If you have any questions please contact Rachel Ellis at 609-292-3950.

Sincerely,



Joseph F. Aiello, Manager

Enclosure(s): Attachments A & B